terrorism in India, Pakistan has been providing safe haven to several fugitives from Indian law, wanted in India in connection with heinous crimes such as the Mumbai bomb blasts of 1993, the hijacking of IC 814 to Kandahar and the December 13 attack on India's Parliament. There have also been reports of Pakistani passports having been issued to Dawood Ibrahim.

Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India, and the sponsorship and support provided by it to terrorists and fugitives from law.

Despite the public commitment by the President of Pakistan not to allow the use of Pakistan territories for terrorism anywhere in the world, Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism and support to individuals involved in terrorist and criminal activities in India has continued unabated. Pakistan has also, contrary to facts, not acknowledged the presence of Dawood Ibrahim in that country, or the support that is being provided to him.

Extradition of Prabhakaran

3888. DR. ABBAR AHMED:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter Government propose to take immediat steps to seek the LTTE chief Prabhakaran's extradition to India in connection with Rajiv Gandhi assassination; and

(b) what political and diplomatic initiative have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) A formal request for the extradition of Shri V. Prabhakaran, leader of the LTTE was made to the Government of Sri Lanka in June 1995. The issue has been discussed since then with the Government of Sri Lanka from time to time and they have been made fully aware

of our position. The Government of Sri Lanka have informed us that the request is receiving their due consideration and that the extradition, if agreed to, would have to await completion of trial and legal processes in Sri Lanka.

India's Intervention in Diffusing West Asia Crisis

3889. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat has sought India's intervention in diffusing the on-going West Asia crisis; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) ~~and (b)~~ Yes, Sir. Mr. Hani Hasan, Special Envoy of President Yasir Arafat, visited New Delhi from 1-3 April, 2002 and delivered a letter from President Arafat to the Prime Minister. In his letter President Arafat conveyed his sincere gratitude for India's assistance and support to the Palestinian people. Mr. Hani Hasan requested that India should use its good offices to help restore normalcy in the region.

Government have expressed their deep concern at the recent incidents of violence in West Bank, Gaza and other parts of Palestinian Authority, Israel and Jerusalem. Government of India have been in touch with countries in the region on these development.

Optimisation of Expenses Incurred by Indian Missions

3890. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made recently to optimise expenses being incurred by the missions abroad in the interest of fiscal discipline;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider doing so and by when?